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**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY TRACKS PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION PROCESS FROM A WEB PERSPECTIVE**

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History announces Web Archive '96, a program affiliated with the Internet Archive of San Francisco, California, to record and track the 1996 presidential election as it appears in documentation on the World Wide Web.

Museum Director Spencer Crew issued a formal invitation to all major candidates to help in this historic endeavor. Dr. Crew said, "We want the candidates to document their hopes for this new medium and their strategies for using it to their fullest advantage. At the conclusion of this year's election, we will invite the candidates to the National Museum of American History to review--for the record--how they believe the Web is affecting American political life."

To preserve samples from the World Wide Web, the Smithsonian will collaborate with the Internet Archive. Brewster Kahle, founder and president of the Archive said, "We are working with the Internet community to preserve all public information on the Internet, which currently is estimated to be in the one to ten terabyte range. The goal is to provide a memory for otherwise perishable resources." Jeff Ubois, project director stated, "The Archive will work with National Museum of American History political history specialists, curators and other staff who will play a key role in assisting in the transformation of campaign ephemera into a permanent, searchable record."

Assisting in the project will be: the Forefront Group, which donated its WebWhacker software; Large Storage Configurations, Inc., which provided tape robot management software; and the Internet 1996 World Exposition, which donated a tape robot.

Web Archive '96 will include not only candidate's sites, but also other sites commenting on the election. Further details and samples from the archive are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.archive.org>. In the future, the campaign information will be deposited in the Smithsonian Institution archives and used in exhibits and in electronic displays on the Smithsonian web site (<http://www.si.edu>).

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